

and was subsequently appointed a member of it, in the absence of one of the regularly appointed members. This committee made a unanimous report to the House of Delegates and the House unanimously adopted the report, which will be printed in full in a subsequent issue. We have every assurance that the Trustees intend to abide by the unanimous desire of the House of Delegates, and that all advertisements of an objectionable nature will be dropped as the contracts expire. Every member of the Association and every self-respecting physician in the United States is to be congratulated upon this action and what it promises:

The special reference committee, Dr. Billings chairman, also recommended that the work of the Council on Pharmacy and

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

Chemistry be indorsed, and that the Trustees be instructed to provide for its permanent organization. This will, eventually, provide information that will be of the very greatest value in dividing the decent proprietary preparations from the nostrums, and in determining the reputable manufacturers from those who are not so. A resolution was introduced and unanimously passed calling upon the journals of the various state medical associations or societies to co-operate with and support the Council in its work, and it is hoped that they will work in harmony with the *Association Journal* in the dissemination of useful and valuable information on the subject. Thus it appears that there is much reason to hope for a decided improvement in the future. The Trustees will be responsible for the hall of exhibits and for the general arrangements for the annual meetings; the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry will be continued and, in all probability its work will be broadened; the exhibits and the advertising pages of the *Association Journal* will be, presumably, more or less under the supervision of the Council; there is a strong probability that the various state journals will clean up their advertising pages and conform to the standards of the Council. Of course, to do all these things will take time. We must expect plenty of abuse from the nostrum men and such journals as cater to that nasty traffic; but insults from these gentry who deal in human lives and fatten on the ill-gotten wealth derived from exploiting and swindling the medical profession and the sick in their care, we should regard as compliments. The harder they are hit by this simple honesty, the more noise will they make and the more easily shall we be able to pick out the dishonest and the utterly depraved. The Association is big and is growing rapidly; it has undertaken to do a work that will mean incalculable good not alone for the medical profession in this country, but for every patient of every member of that profession. Let

us, then, do all that we can to help and to aid the Association, and let us look forward confidently to a better and a brighter future.

Many of the objectionable so-called "remedies" which have disgraced the hall of exhibits in previous years, were conspicuous by their absence, though there was quite a sprinkling of objectionable things present. We may

HALL OF EXHIBITS.

look forward to still further improvement in this direction, for the whole responsibility is now placed in the hands of the Trustees. An amendment was introduced requiring the Trustees to provide for the necessary meeting places for sections, delegates, etc., and to pay the expenses of the annual meetings, leaving the exhibit question to their discretion but attaching to them the responsibility for the result. This is most decidedly as it should be. For the Association to ask or expect the local physicians of the community with which it happens to meet to liquidate its own expenses, is, to say the least, decidedly undignified. Complaint has been made from time to time for several years, yet nothing has been done, and indeed it has been claimed that the Trustees could do nothing as the by-laws required the local men to make such provisions. The Constitution as it stands (Article 11) says: "Funds may be appropriated by the Board of Trustees to defray the necessary expenses of the Association," and this, apparently, gives full authority. But as the question had been disputed it was thought best to specifically require such action. When the hall of exhibits is in charge of a local committee of arrangements, the responsibility cannot be placed to any advantage; now that it is in charge of the Trustees, we know where to place the blame or give the credit. If the hall of exhibits of the future shall deserve, as it has earned in the past, the designation of the "ten-cent side show of the A. M. A.," we may ask the Trustees for an explanation. All indications, however, point to a thorough cleansing of this particular stable.

The publication of a directory of all licensed physicians in the United States has been contemplated by the Trustees for some

THE A. M. A. DIRECTORY.

time, and in their report at the Portland meeting they recommended the authorization of this work by the House of Delegates and the purchase of the Standard Directory as a valuable aid in the work. The final adoption of this recommendation elicited considerable discussion and there seemed to remain a certain amount of misunderstanding in the minds of some of the delegates. Dr. McCormack, the organizer of the Association, would not consent to continue his work unless all question of dissention or difference of opinion was settled. In order to bring the matter before a full session of the House of Delegates,

Dr. Jones, of California, moved to suspend the by-laws at the afternoon session on Thursday, immediately preceding the election of officers, for the purpose of introducing a resolution. The motion to suspend the by-laws was carried unanimously and Dr. Jones introduced a resolution requesting Dr. McCormack to continue his work of organization. In speaking on the resolution, Dr. McCormack called attention to the reported lack of unanimity of feeling among the delegates, and said that his work could not be well done unless every state represented in the House of Delegates was in full understanding and accord with the movement and with the Association. A vote being then taken on the resolution, it was unanimously passed, the best of feeling prevailing and the entire matter being quite fully understood.

We are advised that the new United States Pharmacopeia will be issued from the press on September 1st, and a full review of this new edition will be published in the JOURNAL at some future date. At the present time we wish to call the attention of our members to some very important changes that will go into effect on the 1st of September. The strength of tincture of aconite has been reduced from 35% to 10%, and the strength of tincture of veratrum has been reduced from 40% to 10%. The strength of tincture of strophanthus has been increased from 5% to 10%. These changes have been made in order to bring these potent drugs to the international standards; they will be legally in force and effect on September 1, 1905, and all physicians should remember that fact in prescribing after that date. While we have not space at the present time to dwell at length upon the pharmacopeia, we cannot refrain from emphasizing the fact that it has been greatly neglected by the vast majority of physicians, much to their own injury and to the enriching of the nostrum manufacturers.

Last month the JOURNAL quoted a paragraph from the *St. Louis Medical Review* referring to a garbled account of the Torrici murder case and commented thereon in humorous vein. Our excessively dignified contemporary of St. Louis did not appreciate the humorous side, seems hurt at the "sarcasm" and in turn refers to our now celebrated difference of opinion with the *New York Medical Journal*, and the equally celebrated "retraction," widely advertised throughout the country. But our medical brother of St. Louis did not read the "retraction" in quite the proper way; what we said was: "We do not know that the editorial pages of the *New York Medical Journal* have been bartered for coin." But we do know that at least one physi-

cian in California, has upon two occasions canceled his subscription to that journal for the reason that its columns contained articles of a rather too strong commercial flavor.

Since the days of great prosperity in Rome, and doubtless from a time long prior to that golden epoch, the harlot seems to have joyed in flaunting herself before her less communistic sisters and, in seasons, to have gloried in her own shame. Equally has she patronized her less showily decked and less brazen compatriots and extended a certain friendly sympathy alike to the rake and to the "poor but honest"; to the rake, this seeming sympathy may, perchance, be acceptable.

Some little time ago the *New York Medical Journal*, through its owner and publisher, inadvertently announced to the medical world of this country its separation and complete divorce from those standards of ethics which have seemed good to honest and upright physicians and its allegiance to the elements which make for the very worst influences in medicine—the nostrum and the nostrum maker. The publisher of the *New York Medical Journal* opposed and abused the American Medical Association for the reason that the Association had organized a Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry composed of eminent gentlemen, which Council should calmly consider all remedies submitted to it and do but one simple thing—ascertain whether they were honest preparations honestly placed before medical men, or whether they were secret remedies—nostrums—dishonest preparations, harmful alike to the confiding physician who might use them and to the unfortunate patient who might have to consume them. One can hardly imagine a physician so densely ignorant or so absolutely lost to all self-respect and esteem as not to welcome the formation of a Council having such helpful and such philanthropic purposes in view. The owner and publisher of the *New York Medical Journal* has gone on record as opposing this Council and being favorably disposed to the nostrum manufacturers. He claims that there are 20,000 physicians in this country who help to support his journal by subscribing to it, and apparently flaunts in the face of each one of these presumably self-respecting physicians his absolute disregard for any consideration other than dollars and cents. Indeed, in March the publisher of the *New York Medical Journal* wrote to a number of "manufacturers" suggesting that they furnish their opinions upon the right of nostrum makers to foist their nostrums upon the medical profession, for publication in his journal. Would not this have been truly delectable pabulum on which to feed the 20,000 presumably honest physicians who contribute to the support of the *New York Medical Journal* and its publisher?